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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 002143

SIPDIS

DEPT. FOR EUR/SE AND NEA/NGA; BAGHDAD ALSO FOR CJTF-7

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [MARR](#) [TU](#) [IZ](#)

SUBJECT: TURKEY THREATENS RETALIATION IF KDP CONTINUES TO
"HARASS" TURKOMEN

(U) Classified by DCM Robert Deutsch. Reasons 1.4 b and d.

11. (C) In a meeting on another subject, MFA DG for Mideast Affairs Burcuoglu complained to DCM about indiscriminate KDP detention of Turks/Turkomen in Iraq. Burcuoglu gave the DCM a list of the Turkomen who are, to the best of GOT's knowledge, currently being held in Iraq. One, Mr. Murat Ziya is listed as a Turkish citizen detained in Irbil since March 20th 2004 "under the pretext of carrying photographs and CDs." The other four are listed as Turkomen studying in Turkey. They are Sabah Muhyettin Nurettin, Amir Cemal Kemal, Firnas Necmettin Hanci, and Mehmet Kenan. The MFA nonpaper notes they are "Detainees since February 29th, 2004 under the pretext of carrying publications such as 'Turkmen Bohcasi,' 'Kardeslik Dergisi' as well as books and computers." (Note: the two publications can be informally translated as "Turkmen Bundle/Wrapper" and "Brotherhood Magazine." End note.) Burcuoglu noted that Turkey was weighing in on the students behalf because they were being held by Kurds in northern Iraq, with no one to protect or represent them. He doubted their detentions were even reported to authorities in Baghdad, whom he implied were less biased than the Kurds.

12. (C) The DCM noted that Ziya claimed he was not a Turkish citizen and, if he was, the Turkish embassy should renew its request for consular access. Burcuoglu insisted Ziya was a Turkish citizen and strongly objected to the fact that GOT complaints in Baghdad had been referred to KDP Minister of Interior Sinjari in Irbil. Burcuoglu noted that it was extremely difficult to make contact to Irbil via telephone and unsafe to travel there. He noted the GOT had not been allowed to open any consulates in the north and therefore was only present in Baghdad. In general Burcuoglu accused the KDP authorities in northern Iraq of "harassing" Turkomen and even Turkish diplomats traveling to Baghdad. He said there was freedom of expression in Baghdad but the KDP was discriminating against Turks and Turkomen in northern Iraq. In the meantime the KDP was allowing the PKK/KADEK/Kongra Gel terrorists to operate freely in its jurisdiction while arresting Turkomen for having books and CDs that contained anti-Kurdish material. The KDP continued to allow anti-Turkish material to circulate without reaction.

13. (C) Burcuoglu said the GOT had reached the limits of its tolerance on this discrimination. The government was getting complaints from families and from parliament and was prepared to retaliate if the situation was not rectified. Burcuoglu blustered as to how the Turks might "retaliate in kind" against KDP supporters transiting Turkey.

14. (C) DCM encouraged the GOT to discuss this problem with the KDP. Burcuoglu questioned how that would work considering the Habur talks "were broken," and the Baghdad complaints were referred to Irbil. For CPA, please advise on an appropriate response.

15. (U) Baghdad minimize considered.
EDELMAN